

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

Notice of Public Comment Period and Hearing  
Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit  
U.S. Silica in Ottawa

U.S. Silica, 701 Boyce Memorial Drive in Ottawa, has requested an air pollution control construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for changes to its industrial sand plant to increase capacity. The key elements of the project would be changes to increase the capacity of the plant to dry sand. For one dryer, the heat input capacity of the dryer's natural gas burners would be increased from 33 to 40 million Btu/hour, total. A new scrubber would also be installed on this dryer for control of particulate emissions. For the other three sand dryers, equipment would be installed to increase the amount of water removed by the belt vacuum filters before the dryers. This equipment would apply a wetting agent to the wet sand to reduce the surface tension of the water on the sand and increase the amount of water that is removed before the dryers. Particulate emissions of these three dryers would continue to be controlled by the existing scrubbers. The project would not be a major project for purposes of the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21.

Based on its review of the application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that the application meets the standards for issuance and has prepared a draft permit for public review. The Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period and a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed issuance of the permit prior to making final decisions on the application.

**The Illinois EPA will hold a public hearing on August 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Central Intermediate School, 711 E. McKinley Road in Ottawa.** The hearing will be held by the Illinois EPA to receive comments and answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the draft construction permit. The hearing will be held under the Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Permit and Closure Plans," 35 IAC 166, Subpart A. Lengthy comments and questions should be submitted in writing. Requests for interpreters (including sign language) must be made by July 23, 2015. Any questions about hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Illinois EPA, Dean Studer - Hearing Officer, Re: U.S. Silica, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/558-8280.

The Illinois EPA will accept written public comments on the draft construction permit during the comment period. **Written comments must be received no later than midnight September 10, 2015 unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer.**

Copies of the draft construction permit and other documents, may be viewed at a public repository located at the Reddick Public Library, 1010 Canal Street in Ottawa and the Illinois EPA's offices at 4302 North Main Street in Rockford, 815/987-7760 and 1021 N. Grand Avenue East Springfield, 217/782-7027 (for the Illinois EPA location please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you). The draft construction permit may also be viewed on the internet at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/public-notice/>.

For information or requests about the draft permit, please contact Brad Frost, Community Relations, Illinois EPA, at 217/782-2113 or 217/782-9143 TDD or [brad.frost@illinois.gov](mailto:brad.frost@illinois.gov).